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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
26 April 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(As of 1530 EST)

1. Forces opposing Juan Bosch appear to be losing their chance of achieving a military victory over the rebels in Santo Domingo. Unless a compromise military junta is quickly organized, the Dominican Republic seems headed for a return of Bosch supported by his party, some elements of the military, Communists, and leftist-oriented groups. The extreme left seems better organized than Bosch's own party or those elements of the military on his side. On the basis of his past record it seems unlikely Bosch would be capable of curbing his Communist support.

2. At the present time the military forces remain sharply divided. One group favors the return of former president Juan Bosch or sees his immediate return as the only way to avoid major bloodshed. The other includes those who were largely responsible for Bosch's ouster in September 1963 and remain explicitly opposed to Bosch's triumphant return to power. As opposing military forces cancel each other out, the power vacuum thus created is being quickly filled by leftist forces ranging from the more radical members of Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) to members of the pro-Castro parties and the Dominican Communist Party (PSPD).

State Dept. review completed

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3. Jose Molina Urena, who has assumed the provisional presidency until Bosch's return, has announced some appointments to a "cabinet." He has appointed as attorney-general a man who is sympathetic to the Communists and whose two sons are known Communist Party members. His appointment to the Foreign Ministry is a man with little if any experience in that field; he has been an active member of Bosch's political party. Communists meanwhile have been setting up armed strong points in various parts of the capital.

4. The anti-Bosch or "loyal" forces led by General Wessin y Wessin and air force chief of staff de los Santos have so far failed in their attempt today to dislodge the rebels from the National Palace. Late reports indicate that the anti-Bosch forces, who may now have regained the support of Navy elements, may be mustering their strength for another attempt.

5. In the US Embassy's opinion the only alternative to a probable leftist takeover is a strong US diplomatic initiative designed to prevent the return of Bosch through the creation of a compromise military junta which would schedule free elections for September 1965. Bosch, meanwhile, remains in Puerto Rico. Late this afternoon he said that he would return to the Dominican Republic as soon as his safe arrival could be guaranteed.

6. The US Embassy in Santo Domingo has been requested by the Department of State to seek a cease-fire in order to evacuate those Americans who wish to leave. During this period, efforts will be made to come to some sort of an agreement between the rebels and the military forces opposed to Bosch's return.

7. The fighting is not yet over, and the next several hours will be critical. (Following info as of 1700 EST) Late information suggests that Wessin's chances for defeating the rebels are improving.

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